



We wanted to start 2013 on a high and what better way than to share the story of the Grand Opening of the Malimba School Library. Thanks to the dedication of the Make Me Smile Foundation's many donors this small school in the African bush now boasts its own library. This is a particularly incredible feat as it is the first library of its kind in the whole district - a true joint venture with funding coming from Make Me Smile and the bricks molded by the community themselves. When we think of Malimba's beginnings in 2001, where children sat on bricks listening to teachers stood under a tree with chalk and a blackboard, it is hard not to be proud of what the school has become.



The Make Me Smile Foundation's success hinges on the hard work and dedication of their sponsors. Jojo Harris, in whose memory the charity was set up, was known for her ready smile and wonderful sense of humour. It is therefore very fitting that the charities' supporters came up with such fun ways of raising money. There was the Music Night, where 80 people turned out to watch diverse acts including the London Glee Club. The Summer Fayre, which raised money through a kid's competition involving picking out corners from a map of Africa. In fact the star attraction here was Jojo's dog, Cosmina, who drew in the crowds and was rewarded with endless affection. And an 'Africa Night' which raised 2000 pounds mainly thanks to the volunteers' conscientious approach to promoting champagne drinking. Coupled with regular standing orders from Make Me Smiles' donor money was raised to ensure the dream of a Malimba Library became a reality.



The Library Opening was a momentous occasion in the village and was attended by hundreds of excited children, enthusiastic locals and important dignitaries including The Chief, District Commissioner and District Education Board Secretary. Gid and Adrian Carr were guest speakers having supported Malimba School since the very beginning as well as Tribal Textiles who have assisted the school through it's growth and development. Jacqui Harris, Jojo's mother, and her husband Andrew also visited from the UK to mark this special event.





It would be remiss of us not to mention the District Commissioner's escort. Dressed to perfection he ensured the event had a certain gravitas by performing his duties with aplomb. He would regularly salute and when not protecting the District Commissioner herself he would focus his attention on securing the welfare of her hand bag!

If Zambians' enjoy one thing it is a gathering and celebration of a big event. Speeches are important in Zambian culture and were made by Gid Carr, the school's headmaster Mohammed Mphande, The Chief, The District Commissioner and the District Education Board Secretary. Jacqui also shared stories of Jojo's commitment to helping the local community of Mfuwe and Make Me Smile's aim of continuing her meaningful works.



The Headmaster proudly described Malimba Schools' constant academic success (over 80% of their pupils have past grade 9 again this year). He also expressed his sincere thanks to the founders and fundraisers for their continued belief and invaluable support in Malimba.

The Chief and District Commissioner expressed their gratitude for a library that will improve literacy amongst their youth whilst also giving the Malimba Headmaster the opportunity to start his ambitious project of teaching adults in the community to read.



The library is already getting plenty of use and is doubling as a pre-school classroom. There is a small stock of books - but we need more! Books are a great thing to bring on safari for those looking for a truly meaningful way to make a difference.

All that remains is to thank Make me Smile for funding this library, as well as those involved in ensuring it's construction from the Carr's to Tribal Textiles and the local community.

We look forward to updating you on the impact the library has now that it is up and running.

www.makemesmile.org/

